

THE Library Journal

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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VOL. III. No. 7.

SEPTEMBER, 1878.

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NEW YORK: F. LEYPOLDT, 37 Park Row.

LONDON: TRÜBNER & Co., 57 and 59 Ludgate Hill.

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

SHELF-LISTS *vs.* ACCESSION CATALOGUES.

BY JUSTIN WINSOR, HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

I TAKE issue with the Supply Department in the desirability of distinct accession catalogues. I had experience with one for ten years at Boston, and was often troubled with the amount of labor required to keep it up—it took one attendant's whole time latterly. It was a device bequeathed to me by my predecessor, and I was reluctant to displace it; but in all that period I never knew it resorted to for information that could not just as well have been put on the shelf-lists. Indeed the shelf-list, or the book in question, or the card catalogue—usually the first—must always primarily be consulted as an index to the accession catalogue when any question as to the history of a particular book comes up. Of course, by giving this catalogue up—as I had begun to do before I left Boston, and I believe since then it has been further disused—I lost the ability to know just the order in which all books came into the library, a piece of knowledge, however, that I never once required to know. I also lost the record in one place of the titles of any single gift of books, when they were of a miscellaneous character, but I do not remember of being at a loss for such record. On the contrary, if A. B. was a numismatician, and was in the habit of giving books in his department to the library at intervals, the accession catalogue would not, unless it was indexed, afford a list of their titles, while the shelf-list would, or approximately so, the library

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being classified. Almost all the questions arising about a particular book can be more readily answered by inscribing the required information on the shelf-list, with not more than one half the labor, since about one half the writing is duplicated in the two. The same form of combined shelf-list and accession catalogue, which I devised for the Jamaica Plain and South End branches—the last departments started during my superintendency at Boston—I have adopted at Harvard, giving up here the Record-book (accession catalogue) which had been in use previously. The headings of this new shelf-list are for the left-hand page: *Book-number (i.e., order on shelf); no. of vols.; title; place; and date.* And for the right-hand page: *Sign; date of accession; source (i.e., whence received); fund or gift; remarks.* There are thirty-two lines on the page. A title, not volume, is given to a line.

It will be observed that where both records are kept, the writing on the left-hand page, as indicated above, is common to both, and has to be duplicated.

The shelf-number of course answers all the purpose of the accession number as a link of reference, and the latter is not used—another item of labor saved.

Of course a class-list, where relative location is used, is equally effective as a shelf-list for the combination, so far as the regular purchases of the library go; the file of bills or invoices shows the growth of

the library in its chronological aspect ; and a separate record of gifts—if one is kept—completes the record.

My opinion, then, derived from ten years' experience in the library of the widest range of perplexities of any in the

country, is that the pure accession catalogue demands an amount of labor which produces no corresponding advantages, and that the items of value on it can be far more conveniently preserved on the shelf-list or class-list.

ANOTHER PLAN FOR NUMBERING BOOKS.

BY C. A. CUTTER, BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

SINCE its foundation, I believe, the Boston Athenæum has been afflicted with two evils,—a fixed location of the books, and shelf-numbers marked only on the inside of the cover. The addition of a new book-room and the necessity of rearranging twenty or thirty thousand volumes affords an opportunity of introducing outside tags and a relative location. The first improvement will greatly facilitate the work of the library ; the second will render future rearrangements possible without the tedious and costly process of rewriting shelf-lists and changing the book numbers in all the catalogs. I at first thought, as a matter of course, of adopting Mr. Dewey's system without change, but now am inclined to make two modifications.

1. CLASS NUMBER.—The main defect of the Amherst system applied to a large and minutely classified library is that the ten digits which mark the primary classes are not distributed equally through the field of knowledge. Philosophy, for instance, which, except in special libraries, has a small literature, and in all libraries does not need much subdivision, has a class number to itself ; and History (including Geography), which in most libraries has twenty times as many volumes, and, from its nature, fifty times as much need of division, has no more than one class-number. This is the best that can be done with the 10 digits ; but if we substitute the alphabet one can give one letter as before to Phil-

osophy, but three to Theology, and five or six to History, and so on.

Again, to have only 9 divisions in some classes is to be cramped. The alphabet gives 26 divisions. One need not always use them all, but it is very convenient to have them on hand. In the case of History, 5 capital letters, each divided by 26 lower-case letters, give 130 sections, noted by only two characters apiece, whereas the Amherst scheme, to get only 100 sections in History, has to use three characters apiece. Now, except Fiction, which requires a special treatment, History is more used in the Athenæum than any other class, consequently a saving there in the number of characters needed to mark and charge the books is an important saving. A further subdivision and the use of three characters gives 3380 subdivisions, which Mr. Dewey's plan gets only by employing five figures.

I do not see that the use of letters instead of digits interferes with the greatest advantages of Mr. Dewey's plan—the relative location, the index, and the various mnemonic correspondences. On the contrary, it gives greater opportunity for mnemonics. Certain letters can be appropriated to form-subdivisions (dictionaries, periodicals, societies, etc.), and others to local subdivisions, and the same letters can be used for a country under all the subjects.

The objections to the use of letters are (1) that it is more difficult to write them

than figures; (2) that there is more danger of mistake, since few persons write letters as carefully as they write figures; (3) that it is more difficult to remember the meaning of the class letters, because there are more of them; (4) that with them it is more difficult to find the sections on the shelves, since it is very much easier to follow the sequence of numbers than the sequence of the alphabet; (5) that in consulting the catalog it is difficult to catch with the eye certain queer combinations of letters, as Qzx or Pfb, and difficult to remember them while going to the shelf; (6) that some combinations having an odd significance, as Rat or Pig, may excite the ridicule of the inconsiderate. Of these (2) would be a serious objection in the rapid charging of a large library, especially where the public write their own call-slips. Both (3) and (4) are of little account, unless the public have access to the shelves, because the librarian and his staff would soon learn all they need to know, and get accustomed to the sequence of letters; nor are they very forcible even for a public that goes to the shelves, provided that it is not a changing public. Mr. Dewey, I understand, considered the comparative advantages and disadvantages of figures and letters when devising his system, and decided that the objections to letters for the Amherst Library overweighed the gain in the number of classes. Where the public have access to the shelves, change very slowly, do not write call-slips, and where all the charging is done by the library clerks (who can be trained to write letters as quickly and distinctly as figures), I am inclined to think the letters are preferable.

2. BOOK NUMBERS.—In Mr. Dewey's system the first book that comes into a section is numbered 1, the next 2, and so on. If all books were purchased as soon as published, and no old books ever bought, this numbering would give a chronological arrangement, which in many

subjects would be an excellent thing; but as neither of these conditions is fulfilled in any library, the result is that within the sections there is really no book arrangement at all, except that the latest accessions (not simply the books latest published) are always at the end of each section. For finding and charging purposes in a library without public shelf-access this is perhaps enough. But where not merely runners but librarians and readers go to the shelves an alphabetical arrangement will be a great help, not merely in biography, drama, and fiction, but in other classes. Books can often be found without consulting the catalog. The subject suggests the section of the library, and the author's name shows whether it is at the beginning or in the middle, or at the end of the section; indeed, after a little practice one would know almost its exact number, not indeed correctly enough to mark it, but quite correctly enough to find it at once.

I thought therefore of combining the Dewey class-numbers with the Schwartz book-numbers (described on p. 6-10 of this volume), when it occurred to me that I might have a book-number exactly analogous to the class-number, in being constructed on the decimal system, and therefore, like a card-catalog, capable of indefinite interpolation. To secure an alphabetical arrangement, and yet have his book-marks numbers and not letters, Mr. Schwartz distributes throughout the alphabet the numbers from 1 to 499 for duodecimos, from 500 to 799 for octavos, from 800 to 899 for quartos, and from 900 to 999 for folios. So that several combinations of letters have a number in common, e.g., names beginning with Ann, Ano, Anp, Anq, Anr, Ans, all have the number 11, and if, as will happen now and then, books by Annesley, Anquetil, Anroper, and Anson come into the same section, the numbers are insufficient; one is forced into the incongruity of using letters, and must add

a, b, c, d to the 11; because if one adds figures to 11, one would have 111, 112, 113, 114, which are the numbers corresponding not to Ann, Ano, Anp, etc., but to Da, Dal, Dan, etc. Now the scheme will be more consistent if we distinguish authors entirely by numbers, reserving letters to mark different books by the same author; and this can be done on the decimal plan.

Divide the alphabet into ten parts.

A-Bo	0	M.....	5
Br-C.....	1	N-R.....	6
D-F.....	2	S.....	7
G-H.....	3	T-V.....	8
I-L.....	4	W-Z.....	9

In a class containing very few books even this table would suffice; thus a book by Cleveland would be numbered 1; Damoureau, 2; Goupil, 3, and so on; but when a book by Gray came into that class it would be necessary to subdivide 3 thus:

Ga-Gik.....	30	Hay-Heq.....	35
Gil-Goq.....	31	Her-Hik.....	36
Gor-Guk.....	32	Hil-Hoe.....	37
Gul-Ham.....	33	Hof-Hor.....	38
Han-Hax.....	34	Hu-Hz.....	39

According to this second table, while Goupil remains 3, Gray becomes 32. This table gives us 100 numbers for a subclass, which is enough for most. But if a book should come in written by Gordon, we must subdivide 32 as we did 3, thus:

Gor-Got.....	320	Gri-Gril.....	325
Gou-Gral.....	321	Grim-Griz.....	326
Gram-Graz.....	322	Gro-Gru.....	327
Gre-Grel.....	323	Gry-Gub.....	328
Grem-Grex.....	324	Guc-Guk.....	329

We should then have

Goupil.....	3
Gray.....	32
Gordon.....	320

which is not strictly alphabetical. Two things may then be done. Either the names can be renumbered and all three have their exacter equivalent,

Gordon.....	320
Goupil.....	321
Gray.....	322

or the precise alphabetical order can be disregarded. As very great accuracy is in this matter of little account, the latter course would generally be best, until the class becomes large, when a readjustment of little tangles of this sort would become necessary.

The idea of changing numbers will no doubt be disagreeable to many; but it must be remembered that it need not be of frequent occurrence, because one would use the first table only for sections which were and were likely to remain very small, and for folios and quartos; the second table one would use for octavos and duodecimos in all ordinary sections; but in sections which were at all likely to become large one would begin by using the third table, and in a few cases a table of four figures. It must be understood that throughout this paper I am supposing the subject divisions to be very numerous (much more so than they are in History, for instance, in the printed tables of Mr. Dewey's classification), and the number of volumes in each division proportionately small.

Of course the numbers, being decimal fractions, succeed each other like the letters in a dictionary, that is, 1, 12, 13, 135, 1354, 136, 14, not 1, 12, 13, 14, 135, 136, 1354; and if a book comes in that should go between 12 and 13, it will be so arranged if it receives the number 121.

It may take a little while for a novice to get accustomed to this, but it is exactly analogous to the arrangement of the Dewey class-numbers, which has never been found inconvenient.

The third table, it will be seen, allows for ten authors whose names begin between Gor and Guk under each subject. In any ordinary library there will seldom be so many. But if there are more, it is only necessary to subdivide again, and we have one hundred numbers in that small section of the alphabet, which will very rarely be wanted. Of course the subdi-

vision can be carried to any extent. If one will use figures enough one may have ten thousand or one hundred thousand, in fact there are millions in it.

I find by experiment with already existing classes that the numbers run somewhat irregularly. Following the principle of using no more numbers than are needed, we have in one large section, 0, 01, 02, 026, 06, 066, 067, 0677, 08, 088, 1, 12, 13, 135, 14, 15, 16, 167, 17, 18, 185, etc. As new books come in they can be intercalated at once; and they will come in, on the whole, evenly, although of course occasionally there will be a crowd in some place. But the worst that can come from that is carrying up the numbers rather high; and it is plain that this will not occur often enough to be a serious inconvenience. Each author will have his own number, which will begin alike under all classes, but will have more figures under some than under others. If an author has written more than one book in a subclass (which occurs chiefly in belles-lettres), the 2d may be denoted by *a* added to his no., the 3d by *b*, and so on. To keep up an alphabetical subarrangement, the italic added should be the initial of the title, or the next letter if the exact one is already used. If several titles begin with the same letter, as *N*, they would be distinguished as *n*, *na*, *nb*, *nc*. When a small class has unexpectedly grown very large, as will now and then happen, it may become necessary to give a longer and more exact number to an author who had only received two figures, which bring him before some others when he should be after them. It may be remarked that usually the displacement would be so slight as to cause little inconvenience. At the worst, an author would not be more than ten out of the way until his class was getting nearly a thousand volumes, and only in case the other nine were voluminous would the misplacement be

troublesome. At any rate, as soon as inconvenience was felt, it could be easily and entirely remedied. It would be the duty of the person who writes the shelf-list to be on the look-out for extreme cases.

There is an obvious inconsistency in the two parts of this scheme. Letters are used instead of numbers for the classes, and yet in designating the books the letters of the authors' names are not used but are translated into numbers. It is of course possible to use for the book-mark the author's name, using only so many letters as are needed to distinguish it from its neighbor. But there are advantages in the figures, which are more easily written and more easily read, and more easy to arrange by. It is desirable to distinguish the class-number from the book-number, and if only one is to be marked by letters it should be the classes, because they have more need of the numerous distinctions which letters allow than the authors have.

Mr. Schwartz separates his folios from quartos, and quartos from octavos, by assigning entirely different series of numbers to the different sizes. With the decimal book-numbers this cannot be done. The books themselves may be separated by putting the tags at different heights on the back—for folios, at the top, where they would best strike the eye, folios being generally placed on the lowest shelf; for quartos and duodecimos, which nobody would confound, at the height of 5 cm. (2 in.); for octavos, at 7 cm. The distinction would be indicated in the catalog by some easily written marks, as:

Bg·12 for duodecimos and less.

Bg—12 " octavos.

Bg√12 " quartos.

Bg/12 " folios

in which — is o (octavo) flattened, √ is the written q (quarto) without the top o, / is the written f (folio) flattened.

CHARGING SYSTEMS BASED ON ACCOUNTS WITH BORROWERS.

BY MELVIL DEWEY.

LEDGER READER-ACCOUNT.—The simplest system is the one almost universally adopted by small libraries, where no special attention has been given to the subject, an account with the reader in a book form, with an alphabetical index to find each reader's page. This simple reader-ledger system has done excellent service, and probably will always be used more or less. Some points should be observed. As in every system, the reader's name and number should be in the most legible writing. By giving each reader a page and assigning him its number much is gained, as the use of the index is avoided, except where a reader forgets his number and comes without his card, which of course bears it. Considerable may be gained, specially in college libraries, by entering the names in alphabetical order at the first. The book should be ruled in five columns, for class or shelf, book and volume numbers, date drawn and date returned. Entries should never be crossed out, as it spoils the book for future reference in verifying dates, etc., and is offensive to the eye. Beside making verification of entries difficult, it is less easy to consult than the entries in column, where the blank space in *date returned* shows at once any book out. This system is understood by every one. The ledger is opened to the reader's page, which he gives in calling for the book or which appears on his card, if cards are used, or, in special cases, the page is found from the index to the ledger. The number of class or shelf, book, and volume, if the work be in volumes, with the day of the month drawn, is filled in, and the charge is complete. The first charge in

each month has the number or abbreviation of the month prefixed.

For the rest of the month it is necessary to give only the day. When the book is returned, opening to the page, the clerk enters the day of the month in the returned column, assigns the fine, if any, and the transaction is completed and is recorded in a clean compact line.

If a fine is imposed, it should be entered across the line, with date, the same as a loaned book. In the returned column the date of payment should be entered, thus preserving a record of the whole transaction and avoiding mistakes. If the fine is not paid on return of the book, the line so filled prevents the use of the page until the account is settled, for of course no library continues the issue of books to a reader having an unsettled fine. To do so is a premium on unbusiness like methods, and confusion. Ask doubters whether business is done most pleasantly and satisfactorily at the bank and post-office or at the shop where penny items are charged on account.

Other entries can be economized, like the date, by leaving a blank in the column when the entry is the same as that above. If ditto marks are to be used at all, the dash is written quicker, and is more distinct than the customary two commas.

Nothing is saved by crowding the entries. The cost of extra paper for wider rulings and columns is too trifling for consideration, and the rule should be to give as much space as the most rapid entry and consultation demand. Each figure will require $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. The columns for date drawn and returned, should therefore be 1 cm. each. The class or shelf

number in most libraries should be $1\frac{1}{2}$, and in some 2 cm. wide. The book-number column 1 or $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm.; the volume $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 cm. A $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. column may be put in before each date column to enter the month, which it makes so distinct that it is necessary to enter it only once, leaving the spaces blank for the remaining entries of that month. This column can be omitted if space does not accommodate it. The month should then be put in in letters rather than figures and across the column. Some libraries have use for a column of remarks at the right, *e.g.*, for the initial of the attendant issuing the book, the name of the person drawing the book, if not that to which it is charged, notes as to condition, etc. Most of these items are needed only occasionally, and an extra cross line can then be used, so the column can be omitted. The first three columns should be separated by red lines. Here is the entry of the book, its class, book and volume numbers. Then heavy blue lines inclose the column of month and day drawn, a light red line separating month from day column. Another heavy blue line marks off dates returned, and double heavy blue lines should separate each group of columns from the next on the page. Narrow books will have two, common books three, and wide ledgers four or more of these sets of columns. I should prefer for a small library, and no other would use this system, a book about 30×20 cm., with 50 lines to the page and 3 columns. Each page would then hold 150 v. Practical use of the ledger will make plain the advantage of these detailed directions.

LEDGER-CARD READER-ACCOUNT.—

The same rulings as in the book, on a card 10×15 cm., give 52 entries to the 4 columns of 13 lines each. This is filled exactly like the book. It cannot be handled quite as quickly, but saves time in

being its own index, for the cards are arranged alphabetically. Some, however, number them, and require each borrower to give his number, the same as in the book system. The number can be found much quicker than the name, specially where there are many similar names. The danger of charging on the wrong card may compensate for the trouble of giving the card number, and make this the better system. This number should be very plainly written or printed on the upper left corner. These cards are most convenient arranged in a double-columned box about 32 cm. wide, and of proper depth for the number of cards required, or to fit the place where it is to stand. Partitions (stout iron is good) in this box at intervals of 5 cm. made the handling of the cards easier. The cards are placed and handled like a card catalogue, but must be removed in making entries. A thin ivory paper-folder is a great convenience. It can be inserted behind the card better than the finger, and being left when the card is withdrawn, there is no danger of putting it back in the wrong place, the great bane of this system. When the entries are made the card can be instantly and rapidly replaced by pressing it against the ivory, till it opens the place into which it drops. A slide-cover 10 cm. wide can be easily fitted to the top of the box, so as to give a smooth surface on which to rest the card when making entries. Some get along very well by resting the cards on the edges of the other cards. Guideboards are necessary in this system. They may be of zinc, like those for the card catalogue; of board, with edges marked; or of colored cards a trifle higher (3 to 5 mm.), so the name or catch-words can be written on the projecting edge. After many experiments at Amherst College we preferred this system of charging, and have been using it for three years. It has spe-

cial advantages for a college library, where it is desired to preserve a record of the reading of each of the students. As fast as cards are filled they are replaced by fresh ones and filed away. Each card is numbered, so that a student having number 5 in use has drawn 200 books on the 4 previous cards. Filed alphabetically, the complete history of each student's reading is preserved in one place. It was our custom there to remove the card of any one who had in any way forfeited his right to draw books, a convenient and effectual way of cancelling library privileges. The P. size, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm., could be used for this ledger-card system, using narrower rulings for the columns, and putting only 40 entries to a card. Many, if not most, will prefer this smaller card because of its compactness, and because it fits boxes, trays, postal-card files, etc. Either style of card can be had of the Supply Department, as can also a $15 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ size. Ruled like the P. size, this large card would hold 80 entries, and would occupy no more space on the table or desk, except as it required a deeper box. Or the card may be ruled across the other way, giving 2 cm. to class and book number, $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. to vol., $2\frac{1}{2}$ cm. to loaned and returned. This gives three columns instead of two to the 15 cm. card. Fine ruling gives for $12\frac{1}{2}$ cm. high 25 lines, and the card would hold 150 entries. This is the finest ruling at all practicable. A larger size than this would hardly be convenient. My preference is decidedly for the P size holding 40 entries. The 10×15 gives three 5 cm. columns too narrow for rapid charging, or only two $7\frac{1}{2}$ columns which are wider than really needed. The reader's name is entered on the first line, no special ruling being needed. There are great merits in this plan, and if handled by thoroughly careful persons, who will use the

paper-folder, or something similar, to prevent disarrangement, it will give great satisfaction.

LACED LEDGER SHEETS READER-ACCOUNT.—This plan is simply the shelf catalog binder, with sheets ruled as in the book ledger. Some libraries have used the shelf sheets ruled in this way, and they give good results. If any change were made, it should be to a larger size, but it is a doubtful improvement. It combines the merits of the book with those of the ledger-card and box above described. While never getting out of order, it involves much more labor in adding, removing, or changing sheets. I should either use the book, and endure its slight disadvantages, or else the box, and secure by extra care all its advantages. The laced ledger sheets will, however, work admirably, as I have proved by a year's use. When removed they are filed away alphabetically the same as the cards. They are of course less convenient to handle when removed from the binder. The shelf sheet ruled in three columns of 40 lines each, and laced in the regular shelf binder, will be preferred by many small libraries to any other possible device for charging. This alone combines the great merits of a book, with strict alphabetical arrangement at all times. Shelf sheets can be furnished ruled in this way for 15 cents per 100 extra, making their cost 75 cents per 100, or \$6.50 per 1000.

TEMPORARY SLIPS READER-ACCOUNT.—Still another plan of keeping the account with the borrower is to charge each book on a separate slip, which must of course be small and cheap, and to arrange these slips as the ledger cards are arranged in that system, either alphabetically or by numbers with an index. Where the slip is signed by num-

ber instead of name, the arrangement by numbers would of course be requisite. If signed by name, either the number should be added to the slip, or the arrangement should be alphabetical. In practice I believe no library arranges these cheap slips by themselves, but by means of larger slips of stiff card. The stiff slips are arranged as in the other system, as if to be written on. Then, instead of making the charge on the stiff card, where it will be preserved, no writing is done, but the slip on which the reader calls for the book is simply dropped in against his card and the book is charged. When returned, the slip is taken out and thrown away, or preserved for statistics. This system saves writing, and is quickly managed, but it sacrifices all the advantages of a record of each reader's books, and though it has found great favor in many libraries, specially subscription, I should prefer the slight extra labor of making the permanent entry. There are libraries of course where this is out of the question. The quickest and cheapest method that will possibly answer must be adopted. I am not writing for them when I say I should prefer the ledger-card system rather than the temporary slips. In this plan the stiff card contains full name, address, date of joining, time to which paid, etc., etc. The case of cards is a great nest of compressed pigeon-holes, any one of which may be opened by separating the adjoining cards. Each reader has one, and when he takes out a book its ticket is dropped into his pigeon-hole. The plan is simple, cheap, rapid, and in careful hands reasonably accurate. I should not use for the stiff divisions a card larger than the P-size. The regular catalog-card answers well. If changed it should be to a stiffer stock.

It is practicable, of course, to arrange the slips in a check-box as in the accounts
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with the books. The divisions of the slip-box are then marked for the letters or numbers of the borrowers. Except in small libraries, confusion will result from alphabetical order because of several persons of the same name and initials. The number is safer and usually faster. For the temporary slip used either with stiff cards or alone, I prefer the 5×5 to the $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ cm. I note a growing tendency to use this smallest size, in the same way that the catalog-card size was gradually reduced from a quarter cap sheet, 15×20 cm., till few libraries now use any thing larger than the standard card, $5 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, one fifth the size. I should be glad to know the experience of any library that may have tried this plan.

These four systems—book-ledger, laced slips or sheets, ledger-cards and box, temporary slips and cards—I believe comprise all the systems for keeping accounts with the borrower. A librarian desiring to keep such an account must consider the advantages and disadvantages of each as applying to his special case, and choose for himself. I can imagine cases where each may be better than either of the other three. There are cases where, I am sure, it does not pay to keep any account with the reader. There are others where I am equally sure that it cannot be wisely omitted. Of the methods of keeping the account with the book, I shall present a similar summary, with notes, in another article.*

* These articles are printed because of many questions which could not well be answered in writing. The subject is of great importance, and merits careful attention. The main object of the articles will be served if they bring out free criticism and suggestion. Every thing bearing on the subject will be thankfully received; if brief and of value will be printed in the JOURNAL, and in any case will be submitted to the Co-operation Committee when they recommend to the libraries a model charging system.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

SEPTEMBER, 1878.

Communications for the JOURNAL, and all inquiries concerning it, should be addressed to MELVIL DEWEY, 30 Hawley Street, Boston. Also library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances.

Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to F. LEYPOLEY, P. O. Box 4995, New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.

Exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 37 Park Row, New York.

The JOURNAL addresses itself exclusively to library interests, admitting to its advertising as well as to its reading-matter columns only what concerns the librarian as librarian. It does not undertake to review books unless specially relating to library and bibliographical topics.

The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor always for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in signed articles.

Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of ten cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.

THE selection of a new Principal Librarian for the British Museum involved, as we said last month, so critical a decision for library progress in Great Britain that the appointment has been the chief event of interest for the month. The Museum Library occupies the commanding position, practically as well as officially, in the British library system, and while the lack of its help might not absolutely cripple the present movements, its hearty co-operation is capable of giving an impetus such as could not come from elsewhere. The choice of Mr. Bond gives general satisfaction, and though his specialty in the library has brought him into contact rather with antiquities than with progress, his association with the Museum catalogue suggests that in him the Library Association will have a sympathetic co-worker.

THE Oxford Conference, occupying the first days of October, will find its chief work in dealing with the questions arising from a year's experience of working hand in hand for library co-operation and progress. Those who come together may well be astonished at the results already accomplished—still more at the plans well under way. If so much can be done as a beginning, what may not be accomplished by continued endeavor! Many of these questions are international in their scope, and American

librarians will watch with eager interest for the discussions and decisions upon them at Oxford. There is good reason to hope that such action will be taken as may lead, after such further consultation on both sides as the spring meeting at Boston should afford opportunity for, to a practical agreement between both branches, we may say, of library organization, the British and the American. Mr. Wheatley's pamphlet, issued just in time for the Oxford Conference, affords a basis of discussion for one class of these questions, as well as a platform on which future useful work of the valuable Index Society may now be built up.

THE co-operative movement has now crossed not only the Atlantic but the Channel, which is practically the wider of the two. The Société Bibliographique, at its recent general meeting, recommended, as noted in our last issue, that a general conference of French librarians should be assembled next year in Paris to discuss very much the same questions as have come up before the American and English gatherings. The Italians have already shown much enterprise in associated work, and library conferences will soon, we trust, be the order of the day both in Italy and Germany. An interesting example of the spread of useful ideas from one nation to another is afforded, in the department of trade bibliography, by the growing adoption of the Publishers' Trade-List compilation. The first, in 1873, was an American enterprise; England, and now Italy, have taken up the idea; and like volumes are projected in France and Germany.

THE question of general cataloguing having occupied so much attention recently in the JOURNAL, we turn in this number to several practical details of library administration, which will be found discussed in the leading articles. How to arrange and keep track of the books on their shelves is one of the most important questions to a librarian, not least to those whose libraries are small but growing, and who may now take time by the forelock and arrange a satisfactory system before they are embarrassed by numbers. The question of charging systems is still more important, because this is a point where a library comes into direct relationship with its constituency, and on which its smooth and satisfactory working largely depends. Librarians should carefully consider these articles, and submit their own criticisms or suggestions now, while the subjects are thus prominent.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

THE following has been unanimously adopted by the Executive Board, and is therefore a by-law of the Association :

By-law 2. Periodicals desiring to co-operate in the work of this Association may, after election by the Board, be enrolled upon the list of members, and shall not be liable to the annual assessments.

This by-law was passed with the hope of actively enlisting a large number of influential periodicals in our work. Members are urged to secure applications for membership from editors, through whom, better than in any other way, the Association will be able to reach and influence the people in carrying forward its work.

UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING AT OXFORD.

THE following papers will be read at the meeting : "Old Parochial Libraries of England and Wales," by T. W. Shore ; "District Libraries," by W. H. K. Wright, and a brief note on Indicators ; "Cathedral Libraries, their Contents and Uses," by Rev. H. E. Reynolds ; "Bibliographical Professorships," by W. E. A. Axon ; "On Indicators," by J. Yates ; "On the System of Catalogues in the Royal Library of Copenhagen," by Chr. Bruun ; "The Union of Subscription Libraries with those established under the Public Libraries Act," by J. P. Briscoe, who will also contribute some notes ; "On the Signification of Libraries, Past and Present," by L. Seligmann. F. T. Barrett, of Glasgow, and Prof. Mondino promise communications ; and E. A. Roy, of the British Museum, hopes to send a paper on shelf arrangement. R. Harrison will read "On the Salaries of Librarians ;" H. Stevens "On the Foreign Book Post and the Postal Union Treaties of 1874 and 1878." A paper "On some Practical Points on the Preparation of a General Catalogue of English Literature" is promised by C. Walford, who also proposes a paper on the "Longevity of Librarians." It is very likely that a paper on the British Museum Catalogue will be read by W. E. A. Axon.

The meeting will commence at 9:30 Tuesday, October 1st, in the theatre of the Union Society, Oxford, and will continue on the Wednesday and Thursday following. After an address of welcome from the Bodleian Librarian, Rev. H.

O. Coxe, the report on the progress of the Association during the year will be read, followed by the report of the committee on the General Catalogue of English Literature, on which a lively discussion is expected. It is hoped that the questions of the sizes of books, classification, and cataloguing rules may receive special attention. The papers mentioned above will give occasion to much discourse. It may again be mentioned that on Tuesday evening the Bodleian Librarian will receive the members at Corpus, and on Wednesday the Radcliffe Librarian has issued invitations for a reception at the Museum. We hope to give a summary of proceedings in our October number.

A strange paragraph, says the *Athenaeum*, concerning the meeting of librarians at Oxford has been going the round of the papers to the effect that it has been decided to exclude the representatives of the smaller libraries from the meeting. There is, it adds, no truth whatever in this statement.

SEVENTH MONTHLY MEETING.

THE seventh monthly meeting was held at the London Institution, on Friday, September 6th, at 8 P.M.

Present : Mr. W. H. Overall, *Chair* ; Messrs. J. W. Bone, J. Brace, A. I. Frost, R. Harrison, E. B. Nicholson, C. Walford, B. R. Wheatley, C. Welch, and the secretaries, H. R. Tedder and E. C. Thomas.

The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the following gentlemen were nominated for election : Mr. P. C. Cleasby, of Worcester (by Mr. C. E. Scarse), and Mr. W. Chase Walcott, of Bathurst (by Mr. E. C. Thomas). Mr. J. Foulis and Mr. J. T. Gibson Craig having been duly nominated at the previous monthly meeting were then elected. It was announced that in the opinion of the Council any member of a library committee was *ipso facto* "engaged in the administration of a library," and therefore did not require nomination or election. Messrs. A. I. Frost and C. Welch were elected auditors for 1877-8.

A paper was read by Mr. A. I. Frost "On the Ronalds Catalogue and Library of Works on Electricity,"* as well as a paper by Mr. E. C. Thomas, "Notes on a Proposed Index to Collectaneous Literature." Votes of thanks were passed to the authors for their interesting communications. A lively discussion followed the reading of the two papers.

* This may be expected in a later number of the JOURNAL.

PARIS LIBRARIES.

BEFORE the Franco-Prussian war, there was at the Hôtel de Ville a Bibliothèque Américaine founded by M. Alex. Vattemare, the author of the system of international exchange of books. It was a section of the great Municipal Library. Both were burnt by the Commune in 1871. Lately the Municipal Library has been re-established with 50,000 francs annual revenue, and in it is a section of foreign municipal administration, established by the present Prefect of the Seine, M. Ferd. Duval. It already contains 3,000 v. acquired by exchange, and the United States are well represented.

This library is a specimen of what is now doing to acquaint the French with foreign institutions. They have always been accused of not caring enough what other nations were saying and doing. The last war made this defect very evident. Since then there has been a marked reaction against this indifference. Another proof of this is the foundation at the Ministry of Justice of a Library of Foreign Legislation already containing 4,000 v. of foreign laws and parliamentary documents. The most important laws will be translated at this office.

There was to have been at Paris a more general library of foreign works, organized under the care of M. Em. Chasles, Inspector-General of the University, and M. G. Depping, Librarian of the Ste. Geneviève; but a new minister of public instruction, M. Wallon, whose clerical tendencies are well known, suppressed it several years ago, just as it was getting established.

At present only four or five of the arrondissements of Paris have libraries, which are at the *Mairie*, and are opened only in the evening, chiefly for the use of workmen. The city, induced apparently by the details which have been given from time to time in the *Journal officiel* of the success of the Boston Public Library, is about to increase the number of these arrondissement libraries, which are a sort of "branches" of the central library at the Hôtel de Ville, but are only libraries of reference, without lending departments. Last year M. Herédia in a report to the Municipal Council referred to the statistics in the *Journal officiel*, and pointed out the importance of the libraries of the arrondissements.

And now M. Ern. Hamel has proposed the creation of municipal libraries in the communes around Paris, which, strange to say, have never had any. The proposition will no doubt be

adopted and the books will be lent. Previous administrations have been culpably negligent in not having provided for this need, but it is to be hoped that the want will continue no longer. M. Hamel established some very successful popular libraries in the department of the Somme, of which he was Councillor-General.

It is to be regretted that in France too much reliance is placed upon the intervention of the state. Private initiative is not sufficiently developed. We have no law like the English Public Libraries Act. But we feel the need of a more liberal legislation, that will permit individuals and communes to move more freely. Among the institutions which contribute the most to excite this initiative is the Franklin Society, frequently referred to in the *JOURNAL*. It is in a full tide of prosperity. In 1868 it sent only 11,603 francs worth of books to the various school, commune, parish, and military libraries; in 1877 it sent 67,672 francs, a figure only surpassed in 1873, when the subscription to furnish libraries for the army carried up the sum to 110,944 francs. But after all the chief service which the Society has done is to show to France how much can be accomplished without the intervention of the state. *

THE SUNDAY USE OF LIBRARIES.

THE English law allows only the two antagonistic powers of the church and the public-house to be at work on the first day of the week. All agencies not of an ecclesiastical character that aim at the elevation and improvement of mankind must be hermetically sealed or kept open on sufferance, and at the risk of fines and penalties. The Government rigorously closes national establishments that on other days are supposed to minister not only to innocent gratification, but to the higher purposes of life. The student who has had to travel the length of the kingdom in order to gain access to the treasures of the British Museum may pass his time as he likes from Saturday afternoon until Monday morning, providing he does not ask the powers that be to allow him access to the works of great thinkers and of great artists. Even the writings of schoolmen and divines acquire on the first day of the week a virus so deadly that they have to be immured remote from view. The same holds good of the pictures in the National Gallery. There is a deadly danger in their attractions. It is a wonder that it has not been felt necessary to put the lions in Trafalgar

Square under an extinguisher during the magical hours of the first day of the week.

Whatever appliances we have for educating the sense of beauty, for the cultivation of the æsthetic feeling, are carefully excluded from the profane eye of the people upon the only day whereon they have the leisure to become acquainted with them. It would be possible at comparatively small cost to place in every town and village faithful copies of the greatest masterpieces of pictorial and decorative art, and these, if thrown open upon the Sunday, when the public could really make use of them, would have a powerful effect upon the art culture of the nation. This is prevented by a Sabbatarian prejudice, which, on investigation, disappears like the mist of the morning.

The present state of law and custom is very anomalous. The visitor to London must not be subjected to the perilous temptations of the British Museum or the National Gallery, but he may go to the Zoological Gardens, where he will find thousands of well-dressed people enjoying themselves. Why is it right to see a living *Hyena* in Regent's Park, and wrong to see a stuffed one in Bloomsbury? It is of course said that the "Zoo" is *only* open on the Sunday to the owners and their friends. This is all that any one asks. The National Gallery, the British Museum, and other public institutions have been paid for by the nation. The British people who own them have surely that same right to see their property on the Sunday which is conceded to the proprietors of the Zoological and Botanical Gardens. The rich man who has his picture gallery and his library, who is driven to church by the Sunday labor of his coachman, and who dines luxuriously by help of the Sunday labor of his cook, is horrified at the proposal to open libraries or museums on the Sunday. Their remaining closed does not affect his comfort. One of the finest and most pathetic sights in London is the Bethnal Green Museum. It stands in the midst of a dense population of workers who toil mid din and smoke from morn to dewy eve. It is there, in the midst of the poorest and most hard-working section of the great Babylon, a little oasis of sweetness and light. The artisan goes there when he has the chance, and by comparing his own power as a craftsman with the magnificent remnants of the work of other days, gains fresh light and inspiration. There is a pathos in the aspect of the people who crowd the place. The workman with his wife and children, the soldier with his sweet-

heart, the raw country lad just entering upon the dire struggle of life in the East End, pass decorously through the rooms, gaining, if only in infinitesimal doses, a glimpse of the beauty that art can throw around our daily life. If only to lift them for a brief space from the grime and sorrow of their hard work-a-day existence, and to widen their thoughts by the sight of the variety of forms in which the aspirations of humanity can be expressed, this Museum can only be regarded as a beneficent missionary effort. But when the workers in this busy hive have surcease from their toil, and a blessed interspace of leisure in which to cultivate heart and soul, the doors of this institution are closed by the action of a paternal Government, which at the same time does not hesitate to give leave and license to a flaunting gin-shop at every street corner to lay snares for the souls of men.

W: E. A. AXON,
in the Sunday Review.

INJURIES TO BOOKS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Many libraries have a rule like this: 'Readers finding a book injured or defaced are required to report it at once to the librarian, otherwise they will be held responsible for the damage done.' I appreciate keenly the need of vigorous rules and measures to abate this evil, but see some difficulties in the rule. If A draws a book, finds it injured, and reports at once, what then? He is free; but will the next reader find the same injury, report, and so on? Probably the injury is not discovered till A gets home and reads the book. Must he come back to the library, perhaps a mile or two from home, to report it before he has finished the book? More light, please.

A. R. D."

This is an important matter in all libraries. When an injury is reported it must be at once corrected if possible. Pencil marks and some defacements can be removed with a rubber; a torn leaf can be mended with the adhesive paper supplied by the Co-operation Committee, and which should be on hand at every desk. If a plate or leaf is partly or wholly gone, it should be registered by the attendant with an official stamp, with the date. An embossing stamp is the hardest to counterfeit, and disfigures the book least. If a leaf is torn half off, stamp the remaining half and enter date. This shows to readers and officials that the injury was done before this date, and makes it unnecessary for any other reader to report it. Many libraries

condemn a book if a single sentence is torn out. It is sold for old paper or put in the sale duplicates marked imperfect. But some libraries cannot afford this. A plate removed does not make a book entirely valueless, and if there is not money to purchase a new copy, the old one should be kept. A book torn from its covers, or with the threads broken, must be at once rebound, simply as a matter of economy. Soiled books must be cleaned, torn leaves be mended, and other injuries that cannot be remedied should be officially stamped with date.

Of course the reader is not expected, when he finds any injury, to close his books, put on great-coat and rubber boots, and hunt up the librarian. The rule is for a check on offenders, and its purpose is served without any annoyance to the regular readers. Let Mr. A, so he shall not forget it, note any injury he finds, and report it when the book goes back. By putting in at the page a slip marked "defaced," he will do this effectually and easily. It will be corrected or stamped before the book is again issued, and where slips are kept, the reader who had it last and did not report any injury will probably be the offender, at least will be held responsible for not reporting what could not have been overlooked in reading the book page by page. If such a rule is posted and thoroughly lived up to, it will remove most of the cause, for there are only a limited number of readers in a given library so devoid of good sense and decency as to mutilate or deface public property, and these will need only one severe lesson for a cure. Posting the first two or three offenders, as described on pp. 109, 289, and 406, of v. 1, will be an effectual remedy sometimes.

MELVIL DEWEY.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. CUTTER'S BULLETINS AND THE COMING CATALOG.

Boston, July 8, 1878.

MR. CUTTER'S admirable annotated Bulletins are of so great service that I wish to call special attention to them. I fear many of your readers are not subscribing for them. The trifling 25 c. per year should be forwarded by every librarian, and specially by every one interested in current literature. When reading these notes, telling so much in so little room, I know that I need not allow for any advertising motive in the good opinions expressed, and I feel a confidence in ordering books from this Bulletin not equalled in selecting from any other list.

I commend specially the simple and compact form of the issue, only a single line being used for the heading of each 4 p. number. Still, a twelfth more titles would go on each page without any loss, if the uniform title-slip form recommended in the May JOURNAL, p. 114, were adopted. My special object in writing this note is, however, to urge that this Bulletin issue its titles as far as possible in conformity with that report, so that by buying duplicate copies those of us who wish may cut it up for catalogue entries. If greater fulness seems inexpedient to Mr. Cutter, will he not at least give us the number of pages, size, date, and cost, so we can have a more definite guide in ordering? I have now to look up each book to find whether it be 50 or 1000 pages, 25 c. or \$5, a vest pocket or a stout octavo. The date I assume to be recent, though an occasional old book—because of fresh interest, e.g., books on Turkey or Russia—might be given with notes.

How long must we wait before we get some instalments of the Coming Catalog? The large libraries are making, or ought to make, bulletins, few if any of them so good as this, but the best circumstances allow. Why not put them all in one, thus giving each library for the same expense and labor several times as large a list, with the benefit of the experience and judgment of all in making it? It seems strange that we continue these wasteful methods, when the better way has been pointed out to the satisfaction of all interested.

I am fully aware that a great deal has been done in this direction since the Association was organized. I am grateful for it. I know that it takes time to organize such work and settle necessary details and preliminaries, but it seems that enough has been done so that at least a co-operative bulletin could be started this year. Will you point out the difficulties in the way?

F.

[The only difficulty that we can see is to find some one who will take the labor of love involved in organizing the plan in detail and getting the proper libraries to enter upon it. A few of us are doing more than justice to ourselves will allow in developing these labor-saving and money-saving plans. This will come in time, but could as well be started much sooner, if some one was willing to undertake the necessary labor without compensation. We note with special pleasure the step already taken in regard to serials by the Boston libraries (see p. 165), and the similar co-operation

in regard to book-lists and notes between the Worcester Public Library and the Boston Athenæum (see p. 200) is another step in advance.—M. D.]

A PROBLEM IN CATALOGUING.

NEW YORK, May 13, 1878.

It is a singular fact that while there are "rules" innumerable for apparently all possible cases in cataloguing, our recognized authorities on this most important part of our craft leave us entirely in the dark on the proper heading for a class of works by no means small, but on the contrary forming a principal division of the extensive literature of history. The class of works I allude to comprise accounts of *Wars and Campaigns* in which two or more nations were engaged at the same time.

Neither the British Museum rules, Mr. Jewett's abridgement of them, nor Mr. Cutter's comprehensive work, throw any light on this problem. Nor do we gather any help from the various published catalogues of our more prominent libraries, since they appear to be most uncertain and wavering in their practice.

A friend, who is an authority in these matters, suggests that such works be placed under the country *that is in the right*! Whatever value this might have as a rule, it would by no means answer for our smaller libraries, since it would necessitate the purchase of at least *two* copies of each work of this nature!

Another suggestion hardly worth considering is, that the name of the country that occurs first in the alphabet be selected for the heading.

Seizinger, who is the only writer that has, so far as I know, touched upon this point, in his *Bibliothekswissenschaft*, recommends placing accounts of Wars and Campaigns under that general period of history, viz., Ancient, Mediæval, or Modern, under which the events narrated occurred. One would hardly look, however, under Europe, as this rule would require, for accounts of Napoleon's Invasion of Russia, or histories of the Franco-Prussian war.

The St. Louis Public School Library cuts the knot if it does not untie it, by placing all this class of literature by itself, in a subdivision of "Historical Miscellany." This again is objectionable, as it separates events from the countries in which they occurred, and of whose history they form integral parts.

Another friend's suggestion is to place works of this kind *under the country invaded*; and this, in my judgment, is the only safe and consistent

rule. It does not, however, appear to have been followed by any library in this country, so far as catalogues enable one to judge; since, to cite only one of several instances, the *War with Mexico* is invariably placed under *United States*, instead of under Mexico, as it certainly should be by this rule.

As the subject of Co-operative Cataloguing now bids fair to be placed upon a firm footing, I give the above suggestion for what it is worth, as a contribution towards completing the otherwise admirable rules published in the JOURNAL by the Committee on Uniform Title-Entries.

J. SCHWARTZ.

A MONTHLY INDEX FOR DAILY PAPERS.

BOSTON, June 6, 1878.

In a late issue of the *New York Tribune*, in regard to making a monthly index, it is suggested that it would take at least ten days to index the month's papers, so the printed index could not be distributed before the 15th of the next. It amused me as much as did the librarian's explanation, that, as the entries in a catalogue were all alphabetical, it was impossible to make it until all the books in the building were arranged in this order. Has the *Tribune* never heard of the slip system, by which I suppose all indexes are made, and can it be ignorant of the fact that each day's paper can be indexed as soon as printed, the last day of each month being added to the rest and sent to press on the first day of the next month, and as a part of the daily issue? It would cost quite a little to make a complete index, but one referring to the more important matters would not be much expense, and no page of the month would be more profitable than the one giving references to the preceding months. These together at the end of the year would seldom require more than two or three references to find anything wanted, for the date would be remembered within three months. It would not be impossible, nor so very formidable an expense, if the type were kept standing and the new matter inserted each month, thus making each monthly index complete from the beginning of the year. By inserting full lines there would be no expense of "over-running," and there would be greater ease of reference than if the matter were "run in." I believe that the first-class paper that first adopts this system will add largely to its subscriptions from librarians, and all people who have frequent occasion to make investigation. Who will be the pioneer in this monthly supplement to Poole's Index? F.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

I. NOTICES.

QUESADA, Vicente G., *Director de la Biblioteca de Buenos Aires*. Las bibliotecas europeas y algunas de América Latina, con un apéndice sobre el Archivo General de Indias en Sevilla, la Dirección de Hidrografía y la Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia en Madrid. Tomo I. Buenos Aires, librerías de Mayo. 1877. 651 p. Q.

A large and handsome work on library science reaches us from a quarter of the world where similar contributions have hitherto been infrequent—South America. Towards the end of last year the first volume of "Las Bibliotecas Europeas y algunas de la América Latina," por Vicente G. Quesada, director de la Biblioteca de Buenos Aires, was published at Buenos Aires at the expense of the Provincial Government.

Señor Quesada's observations are principally founded on information collected by himself during a tour in Europe, less, we imagine, from personal inspection than from materials already existing in print. Although, at least, he has evidently visited most of the institutions he describes, we miss the sharp, clear accuracy of detail which personal familiarity alone can bestow. In giving, for example, an account of the formalities necessary for admission to the Reading-room of the British Museum, perfectly accurate as far as it goes, he omits to mention that, all formalities notwithstanding, any decently dressed person can obtain a temporary admission on personal application; so that while, on the one hand, the Museum system is much more liberal than his readers would learn from him, they would, on the other, be sorely mistaken if they seated themselves in the Reading-room "en el convencimiento que allí no concurren sino personas ilustradas." He comments upon the absence of a classed catalogue at the Museum, and unintentionally confirms his strictures by the assertion that the collection of books relating to Spanish America is very poor. The fact is the reverse; but this is difficult to ascertain without the assistance of a classed catalogue. It may be suspected that his account of the other European libraries would betray a similar deficiency of information at first hand. At the same time it contains much valuable matter, and an abridgment or recast of it in a tabular form might be useful in Europe and the United States. The

libraries described are those of Paris, London, Munich, Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Brussels, Madrid, Milan, Turin, Florence, Bologna, and Rome. The second volume will contain an account of the author's researches in the Spanish archives, which are likely to be of especial interest to American readers, and have already led to the production of an important work by Señor Quesada, "La Patagonia y las tierras australes del continente americano. Buenos Ayres. 1875." R: GARNETT.

Señor Quesada was sent by the Government of Buenos Ayres to Europe to make a study of libraries, as a help in the reorganization of the institution of which he is the director, and his report contains much valuable information in regard to library administration.

The author calls his account of the libraries of Italy the record of a tourist, rather than the study of a librarian, and the same might be said of other parts of this book. His time was limited, and he had not made a systematic plan of work or any special preparation. He was ignorant of the language of some of the countries he visited, and found only at Berlin a librarian who could speak Spanish. For these reasons he often failed of acquiring the information he wished. Moreover, he was sometimes baffled, as at Vienna, by the ignorance of officials, or, as at the Vatican, by their unwillingness to help him. At the National Libraries at Madrid and Paris he was able to work more deliberately and intelligently, and his descriptions of these institutions form the best part of the book.

The reader will share the author's regret that the statistics of the number of volumes in European libraries, as reported here, appear often to be mere guess-work. The statement is made by an official at the National Library at Paris that there are three million volumes in that collection, and the estimates of the Imperial Library at Vienna, made by two competent authorities in the year 1874, are respectively four and six hundred thousand volumes. It is stated that, according to official reports, in the year 1836 the Ambrosian Library at Milan contained about 100,000 volumes, and in the year 1857 only 80,000, and Señor Quesada can suggest no explanation of this difference except carelessness in the count.

It will be seen from this work that the same problems in library management confront librarians everywhere; such, for example, as the question how libraries can be adapted to struc-

tures built for other purposes. It is stated that not one of the twenty-seven government public libraries in Italy is in a suitable building or one intended for such use.

In the opinion of Señor Quesada the most important work in a library is the preparation of its catalogues. To this subject, as well as to the organization of libraries, he gave particular attention in his visit, and his descriptions are minute and add much to the value of his work.

The experience of the Library of the University of Bologna is suggestive. In December, 1805, by Government decree, the preparation of a new catalogue was undertaken, which, it was ordered, should be finished by the end of the following February! The library was portioned out among the professors, each of whom catalogued the books falling within his own department. After three years' work, and an expense of 150,000 lire, it was discovered that this labor had been thrown away and that the catalogue was useless.

In the opinion of the author it is not wise, even if practicable, to print catalogues of large and rapidly-growing libraries, and he favors the preparation of catalogues of special subjects.

Notwithstanding the defects which have been mentioned, which are frankly acknowledged by the author, this is the most important recent account of European libraries with which we are acquainted. The second volume will be looked for with interest, as it will contain an account of the libraries of South America and Mexico, in regard to which but little has been published. Señor Quesada can here give us the results of more careful study and will speak with greater authority.

JAMES L. WHITNEY.

A notice of Quesada in *Revue critique*, 10 Aug., p. 87-89. "M. Q., like his predecessors, attaches too much importance to certain details of the second class, as, for example, the number of volumes in the different libraries. Plainly in this matter quality, not quantity, is the essential. Copyright deposit, in most European states, every year brings into these establishments thousands of volumes of no value, enormous quantities of printed paper which are an expense rather than a gain."

There is also a notice of Quesada by Petzhold in *N. A. zeiger*, June. 2 p.

ANDERSON'S COLLEGE. The Ewing musical library; catalogue of the musical library of W. Ewing, bequeathed to Anderson's Univ. (now called Anderson's College). Glasgow, 1878. 256 p. O.

In all the recent discussion that has taken
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place both in England and America on the subject of libraries and library management, there is perhaps nothing that has attracted so much attention and given rise to so much diversity of opinion as cataloguing; but it seems to have been reserved for Scotland to issue a catalogue which apparently has been prepared with the sole purpose of showing "how not to do it." From the preface to this remarkable volume it appears that the late Wm. Ewing, Esq., insurance broker in Glasgow, bequeathed to the "Trustees of Anderson's University, Glasgow" (now called Anderson's College), all his music and books relating to music. In addition to this, he bequeathed to the managers and trustees of said university a sum of £200, to be applied by them in compiling and printing a catalogue of his said musical library. At first sight the arrangement of the catalogue gives one the idea that the trustees had carried out these instructions literally, and that they each had had a hand in compiling this volume; but on a little closer inspection the work is found to be so uniformly bad as to lead one to the conclusion that it is all the work of one pair of hands. The catalogue is divided into eight heads, or rather six heads, and "Miscellaneous" and "Addenda;" — a mode of cataloguing which is most misleading to those who consult the catalogue to find what books the library contains on a given subject, which, it is presumed, was one of the chief objects of this compilation. And if any one wishes to find out what works of a certain author are there, he will find it just as troublesome. To take one or two instances, there are two divisions, the one called "English Psalters," and the other "English Psalmody." At first sight it looks as though the former division were intended to include all the different versions of the Psalms of David, and the latter the various "Psalm and Hymn Books"; but though under "English Psalters" there are many editions of the Psalms, in prose and verse, with music and without, yet under the other heading of "English Psalmody" we find such entries as these: "The psalms of David, for parish churches" (p. 216); "The first verse of every psalm of David, with an ancient or modern chant, in score" (p. 216); "The Bible psalms" (p. 219). Then again, on page 195, under the head of "Oratorios, Sacred Cantatas, etc.," on looking at the name "Handel" we are struck by the absence of some of his most important oratorios, as "The Messiah," "Saul," etc., but there is a cross reference "see Miscel-

laneous Music," where, on p. 239, we find these missing oratorios. Surely this is a curious mode of cataloguing. On the same page, by the way, there is a copy of "Jephtha" catalogued as being in 16 vols. fol. Surely so unique a copy deserved a fuller description, if it ever existed. But the fact is, it is a careless entry, the "16 vols." being intended for the whole of the Handel Society's works.

Apparently the compiler's acquaintance with modern languages was on a par with his knowledge of the rules of cataloguing. A few examples will suffice. On p. 61, Helmholtz's "Populäre wissenschaftliche Vorträge" appears as "Populäre Wissenschaftliche" (*sic*); on p. 85 we find this entry, Meckenheuser, "J. G., Die sogenannte: allerneueste, musikalische Temperatur. . . 4to," etc. The punctuation of the following, on p. 93, looks as if the cataloguer had been misled by the title: "Nissen, Georg Nikolaus. Biographie, W. A. Mozart's, Nach Original briefen, sammlungen alles über ihn geschriebenen, mit vielen neuen Beilagen, Stein drücken, Musikblättern und einem. Fac-simile. 2 vols.," etc. etc. The full point of the last entry is wanted to put the next one right (p. 187), "Fink, G. W. Musikalischer Hausschatz der Deutschen Eine Sammlung," etc. etc. On p. 194 the full point has again strayed, as witness the following: "Chrysander, Fr. Carissimi's Werke Herausgegeben von Fr. Chrysander Oratorien. Jephtha, Judicium," etc. etc. In all the German entries the capitals are distributed in such a manner as would make Mr. Cutter's hair stand upright. Amongst the French mistakes the following are characteristic: "P. 115, Selden, Camille, La musique en Allemagne Mendelssohn, etc.," at p. 163, "Le domino nor"; at 168, "Kastner, Les danses des morts dissertations," etc. The accents on the French e seem to have been scattered with a pepper-box, sometimes falling on the right ones, and often not.

South of the Tweed we do not generally call the great Sydenham pleasure-house the "Crystal Palace" (p. 195), nor do we spell fac-simile "fac-similie" (p. 195). It is also new to hear that the title of Mr. Arthur Sullivan's oratorio is "The Prodigal's Son" (p. 199).

Old Wykehamists will smile at the following entry on page 178: *Harmonia Wiccamica*. The original music in score of the Graces, *I am Lucis*, etc. etc. On p. 170 Mozart's opera is called *Il flauto magico*.

The specimens here given have only been obtained by opening the book at random, and any

one who is curious about misprints may find nearly as many for himself as he chooses to open pages.

There is another great blot in this catalogue, namely, the neglecting to give the contents of "Collections" of music; take, for example, Webbe's collection of glees by various authors (p. 184). Surely the glees, etc., named in this collection should have been enumerated, as, unless a student is aware that the glee he is searching for is in Webbe's collection, he will search the catalogue and come to the conclusion it is "not in the library." On p. 240 there is an entry that savors strongly of an auctioneer's catalogue, "Manuscript Music, Various Pieces, including Autographs of Composers, etc." One would have thought that with £200 to spend, something a little better than this might have been produced by Anderson's University.

JAMES B. BAILEY.

YOUNG MEN'S LIB. ASSOC., *Ware, Mass.* Catalogue of the library. Ware, 1878. 76 p. O.

The library is arranged on the Amherst system, which after a year's experience is strongly endorsed in the preface. The catalog, however, is a simple list of authors, brief titles, and book numbers, and without imprints. I should like much better the catalog face lower-case type, instead of caps, for the author's names. Though few small printing-offices are supplied with this type, a very small assortment would be sufficient for a form. Where used only for the first word, it ought to be afforded, for the eye reads the lower-case so much easier than caps. A great saving in calling and charging books would result from omitting, as I have often suggested, the entire class number for the most common class. Here 823, prose fiction, occurs constantly, and therefore the most used books have large numbers, as the book number at once runs into three figures.

It would be easier to find subjects by number, and would be safer from mistake in copying numbers, if the decimal point were kept in line as in writing dollars and cents. The printer secures a better effect by carrying every thing to the right, but convenience requires the class numbers to be "in column." I am sorry to see the *vols.* retained instead of the simple *v.* recommended by the committee. Any one who cares to know recognizes the latter just as quickly, and in this catalog I note places where its use would have saved a line, and it always gives a neater-looking title.

Several works by the same author are apparently not arranged either alphabetically by titles or chronologically. A mind trained to following the alphabet looks in alphabetical place among a series of titles. Perhaps the public will hardly notice it, but some arrangement should have been followed.

The alphabet is simply of author's names, though "The Holy Bible" strangely ends the list. The anonymous books are arranged by titles by themselves after the author's list, thus carrying out the notion of those who can see no sense in mixing titles with author's names in a list where titles are nominally not given. The feeling that the catalog should be simply an index, which of course should be in a single alphabet, will lead most librarians to the purest alphabetical arrangement, putting every thing in one alphabet, authors, titles, and subjects, if any are given. The list of periodicals and public documents are also given as supplementary alphabets.

The articles "a" and "the" are strangely followed in arranging the titles. Such mistakes will probably be less common after the proposed Library Manual is distributed to all the smaller libraries.

M. D.

ROGERS, Horatio. Private libraries of Providence, with a preliminary essay on the love of books. Providence, Sidney S. Rider, 1878. iv. + [2] + 255 p., ill. and 6 plates. sq. O. hf. cf., \$6.

Bibliomania is a forbidden weakness to the public librarian, and the necessity of preserving the "balance of power" in the departments of knowledge prevents, except in a few of the largest libraries, even an attempt at completeness in any particular branch. But though himself denied the luxuries of rich bindings and unique editions, no one is probably more fitted by his special knowledge and whole training than the librarian to appreciate such collections, or is more prone to envy the owner their possession. A librarian is always a bibliomaniac *in posse*. It is to be regretted that the bibliography of American collections (which of late are becoming so numerous) is so scant, for of all branches of the science this is the least dry. The New York libraries as they were some years ago have been described, and here we have a similar work on the Providence libraries. Beyond these, what have we of note save Mr. Guild's work and some scattered magazine and newspaper accounts of single collections? Gen.

Rogers' work originated in some contributions a few years since to a local paper, which he has now revised and enlarged into book-form, adding to the original new articles and prefixing an essay on the "Love of books," which points out some of the many forms the mania for collecting has taken, and briefly describes the more notable book-collections of other times and places. The Providence libraries, which form the subject of the work, are eight in number, among which are the John Carter Brown Library (especially rich in Americana), that of Hon. John R. Bartlett (valuable alike in geographical, etc., and in philological works), that of Mr. R. C. Taft (distinguished for rich bindings and perfect copies), that of Mr. Sidney S. Rider (unequalled in its works on Rhode Island), and that of the author (notable for its fine-art works, especially of wood-engraving). In each of these the general lines of collecting are indicated and the most valuable and curious works specified. Gen. Rogers' knowledge and love of the subject have enabled him to supplement the judgment and discrimination thus displayed by including a host of illustrative quotations which happily prevent the catalogue-form such descriptions are so apt to assume. An excellent index gives the needed clue to the mention of any particular book. The owner's book-plate is given with each article, and many have further illustrations of the library-rooms. The typography of the work is exceptionally handsome alike in paper, type, margin, and binding, and as the edition was limited to 250 copies the book ought soon to command a high price.

L. E. J.

2. RECORD OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

[The extracts made in this department are much condensed, and connecting words are often altered or inserted in order to piece the sentences together.]

A. Library history, economy, and reports.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE. La Bib. Nat. en 1876; rapport à M. le Min. de l'Instruct. Pub. Paris, Champion, 1878. 70 p. 8°. 3 fr. 50.

KÖN. BIBLIOTHEK, Bamberg. Führer durch die Bibliothek, von Dr. Leitschuh, Bibliothekar. Bamberg, Buchner, 1878. 47 p. 8°, with phot. view.

Praised in the *N. Anzeiger* as a model guide. Petzholdt regrets that so few libraries have such guides.

LAWRENCE FREE PUB. LIB. 6th ann. rep. Lawrence, 1878. 28 p. O. Added, 1361 v.; total, 15,945; issues, 150,768.

LEEDS PUB. LIB. 7th ann. rep., 1876-7. Leeds, July 1878. [2] + 21 + [1] p. (incl. cover).

Added, 12,792 v.; total, lending libraries, 51,437; ref. lib., 20,750; issues, ref. lib., 51,509, lending lib., 398,232; visits to the reading-rooms, 660,099.

SPRINGFIELD (Mass.) LIBRARY ASSOC. Ann. rep. Spr., 1878. 24 p. O.

Accessions, 1065 v.; total, 40,672; issues, 39,695; reference, 11,906; 705 yearly subscribers, and 495 for six months. "We repeat the request that parents and teachers would aid us in the endeavor to make the Library available for purposes of improvement as well as entertainment, by recommending to those under their care the reading of the best books. A few words of advice from teachers in regard to the choice of books would in many instances be of incalculable value."

La Bibliothèque Nationale.—Gazette anecdotique, 15 June.

Les bibliothèques et les sciences au Moyen Age; par A. Bonnetty.—Annales de philos. chrét., July. 7 p.

Les bibliothèques militaires départementales; par V. Champier.—Revue de France, 1 July.

Contributors' club.—Atlantic, Aug.

"The Southerners have finer and costlier old-fashioned books than we have. The library at Charleston is piled to the ceiling with venerable mahogany-colored English bindings, which look as though they had been 'through the wars,' as they have. The handsome young librarian says, but not apologetically; the Charlestonians never apologize: 'We have but few new books.' He does not know how delightful and new it is to see nothing but old ones! But the quaintest little places are the 'neighborhood libraries' in the country; not by any means established for 'the people,' as with us, for there were 'no people,' but for the pleasure of the planters' families in that neighborhood. Twice I have had the key of such little buildings—now almost always lonely and forsaken—and have spent hours taking down and looking through the dusty books. Almost all were fine old English editions of fine old English authors, together with some of the most famous Frenchmen also; on a lower shelf, the 'Southland' writers."

The habit of reading.—Saturday rev., Aug. 24. 2 col.

"An ingenious writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* has recently exposed to the horrified public a new vice of the working classes, as they are still facetiously called—the detestable practice of reading too much. Artisans (we are to believe) will read any thing—scientific treatises if they can get nothing better. Works on conic sections, philology, the theory of torpedoes, or the higher curves, minister to their diseased appetites. They will swallow a geological treatise as certain savages eat earth when they cannot get slugs or opossums. They can pass a happy hour with the advertisement sheet of the *Times*—in desperate circumstances, when no novels or stories of adventure are to be had. It is scarcely necessary to say, however, that they prefer stories of adventure to entertainments. All the leisure hours of these abandoned artisans are devoted to reading, and as they stitch at our coats, or paint our panels, or lay bricks for our houses, they live on memories of these happy entertainments. In their waking moments their eyes see little of the visible world. They are bent on printed pages which

reveal a world of adventure in which weariness and want are forgotten. They may become as useless, shiftless, and forlorn as drunkards or opium-eaters, if they once abandon themselves to the habit of indiscriminate reading. Yet bookworms of more complete development ought to feel not unkindly towards the poor do-nothing lovers of literature, the working-men who waste their time and money over books as their more robust fellows do over pots of ale. The temptation to become a mere bookworm is probably the besetting sin of most men of letters. Printed paper draws them magnetically, as Homer says iron draws the hands of a hero. A man who has the habit of reading will even not refuse a tract; there are very good stories in tracts—in the first page and a half, that is to say; he has a Mohammedan respect for all printed paper, and finds things he is glad to know about in the scraps inserted in the binding of old books. He cannot take up a mouldy octavo on a stall but he learns something from the researches of a forgotten pedant. It is true that the confirmed reader may be missing something else that is worth looking at in human life while he pores over the productions of the feeble or mighty minds of old. On the other hand, he has so far the advantage over the mentally dissipated mechanic, that in every thing he reads he finds grist for the mill that works up the solid literary vestments of old times into the marketable shoddy which is the raiment of the modern spirit. He is working for himself, unless he is one of those misers of reading who keep all they find to themselves. . . .

"The most trivial literature introduces you to an undreamed-of world of readers and writers, about whose intellectual tastes and habits there is no other way of getting information. Who, for example, would know the whole truth about the mental vacuity of people of fashion if he did not read the literature which they love and help to construct? Who could fathom the depths of popular politics and political economy without aid from the journals of the unstructed? . . .

"There never was a more confirmed bookworm than Napoleon, who for all that was, it will be allowed, 'a man of action.' In all his campaigns he carried a travelling library of novels. This taste for trashy novels is not peculiar to Napoleon. Many men of active minds, even when refined taste is combined with activity, many judges, barristers, scholars, find rest and solace in the very poorest novels. As long as there is a plot and a narrative and a mystery, they are content."

Harvard University; foundation and growth of the College Library [by Moses King].—Sunday herald, Sept. 1. 2½ col.

Isolément et agrandissement de la Bibliothèque Nationale.—Journ. gén. de l'imprim., Chron., June 29, July 6, 13. 2 + 3 + 1 col.

A résumé of a report by Barthélemy Saint-Hilaire on the purchase of the building adjoining the Bib. Nat. The danger of fire, and the immense loss which would result from it, are first insisted upon; next the entire insufficiency of the present space to contain even the present treasures; and, finally, the absolute necessity of larger reading-rooms (the possibility of relieving the reading-rooms by the circulation of a certain less valuable portion of the books apparently not occurring to anybody). So crowded is the public reading-room that readers are often compelled to sit on the floor or on the ladders, or to stand at the windows, or even sometimes to form a line outside the door and wait for a vacant place. The Students' Reading-Room (Salle de Travail) is always full; the Reading-Room of the ms. de-

partment, where space is especially needed for proper surveillance, is choked; the Geographical Room, besides being very dark, has only 5 seats, and the books are 150 meters distant from the atlases; finally, in the Engraving-Room the public have almost crowded out the attendants.

Die K. K. Familien-Fideicommiss-Bibliothek in Wien.—*Neuer Anz.*, Aug. 2½ p.

Die Königl. od. Reichsbibliothek in Stockholm; v. Dr. B. Dudik.—*Neuer Anz.*, Aug. 3½ p.

A mercantile library.—*N. Orleans times*, Sept. 10. ½ col.

A number of gentlemen propose "to fill this great want of our city, to establish a mercantile library on the model of the best institutions of the kind in the country." Shares of perpetual stock \$100, life stock \$50, common stock \$10, the latter taxed \$4 a year; subscribing members to pay \$5 and a semi-annual tax of \$2.50; perpetual members to have 10 blank cards of admission for distribution.

Rapport présenté au Conseil d'Administration de la Société Franklin, par C. Robert et H. Faré, à l'appui d'un projet de loi relatif à la fondation et au fonctionnement des bibliothèques populaires. —*Bul. de la Soc. Franklin*, July. 64 p.

An important and interesting document. A sketch of the history and present condition of library legislation in France is followed by a similar sketch of foreign legislation, especially English and American; to this succeed considerations in support of the proposed law, and the bill itself. The principal features of the law are four. 1. The right to open a library on filing a declaration, instead of, as now, after obtaining permission from the government. The committee urge that the principle of the exercise of certain rights after a simple declaration is prevailing more and more, and instance primary schools, secondary schools, and, since 27 July, 1875, establishments of the higher education, also the liberty of the press, the colportage of newspapers, and bookselling. 2. Right of the Prefect to ascertain the regularity of the declaration; as to the choice of books in the interest of public morals and public order, the right of every inhabitant of the commune to enter his observations in a register, and right of the Prefect to exclude, until overruled, every work contrary to good morals, to the constitution, or to the laws. It appears to have been objected to this that it would give an opportunity to factious obtrusives to object to the catalog of any popular free library, however irreproachable, and to cause great inconveniences and delays, so that it would be much better to restrict the number of persons to whom the censure is intrusted; but the committee reply that the right of objection carries with it the right of support; that throwing it open to all is to bring it under the power of public opinion, and will tend to awaken village public life (a matter which the French liberals have very much at heart). The chief danger in the way of popular libraries, the committee say, is that they may serve as the vehicle, voluntary or unconscious, of bad books; and the best safeguards against this are light, criticism, publicity, moral responsibility. The committee expect the execution of the law to be facilitated by a declaration of the government that all books contained in the catalogs of the Franklin Society must be considered as inoffensive. 3. Questions on the objections made to the opening of any library and on the exclusion of any book to be referred for decision to the Council of Public Instruction of the Department, with an appeal to the Superior Council. 4. Right of inspection assigned to the Mayor and to a delegate of the Prefect.

This is especially for the purpose of determining whether the Library contains any work not included in the authorized catalogs.

Nothing could better show the difference between a centralized "paternal" government and our American village autonomy than the evident feeling on the part of the authors of this law that it is one of extraordinary liberality. To put the selection of books, as our small libraries do, into the hands of trustees or library committees, and, as our larger libraries do, into the hands of the librarian alone, would be startling to a Frenchman. To each country its own ways; but the cautious fear of the best Frenchmen lest liberty should degenerate into license is not without its lesson for us. Yet one would think that the fear expressed in the following sentence—"If a good popular library is the useful complement of the schools, a collection of licentious or obscene books would become a centre of moral infection"—could be counteracted by the consideration that "No founder of a library would willingly incur the reproach of having perverted it from a means of instruction and progress to a school of depravity."

Sketches from shady places.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

It is one of the better class of these common lodging houses. The "reading-room"—a grimy, battered apartment on the ground-floor—which may hold about fifteen persons, is thronged. What with one thing or another the atmosphere is extremely unpleasant. It requires to be hardened to the thing to spend ten minutes in such a place without sickening. The occupants are all inveterate readers. They do nothing but work, eat, sleep, and read; and the three first in subordination to the last. Reading, indeed—though I have never seen the fact noticed anywhere—is one of the darling vices of the shady classes. Its votaries, though numerous enough, are fewer certainly than the numbers devoted to any other commanding vice; but to them it is fully as mischievous as are unlimited drinking, gaming, etc., to any of their fellows. A passionate reader of this kind will take up any thing—a sheet of advertisements, a scientific treatise, or a volume of theology however dry, and read it through—whether he comprehends it or not—in lack of matter more entertaining. His delight, however, is in fiction, and by preference stories of murders, highwaymen, and pirates, and of extravagant adventure among savage tribes. These are the pet themes of the numerous "penny dreadfuls;" and the common lodging-house reader purchases as many of these as he can, in this way securing material to last him through half his evenings. The other half is devoted to odd volumes of all kinds—novels, history, biography, or travels, as they come in his way. I have seen men so infatuated with reading that they would do nothing else, thus allowing themselves to be ruined utterly by their passion. Three remarkable instances came under my notice, nineteen or twenty years ago, in a large northern town. Two of them were the sons of widowed mothers, on whose scanty means they subsisted; how the third lived nobody could guess. All three—still young men—had been launched in life as clerks. In each instance this insane passion for reading lost the individual his situation; never afterwards, at least during the three years of my observation, did they do any thing but gratify it. All three were notorious frequenters of the public library, where they spent the whole of the day, being the first to enter in the morning and the last to quit it at night. I never heard that any of the three ever wrote a line in his life, or attracted any sort of notice as a person of information or literary taste. They were mere book devourers. These inveterate readers live in a great measure out of the practical world, in a dream-world of their own. One of

them cannot read a story without identifying himself with the hero. Hours not given to reading are spent in creating imaginary adventures; while he is eating the man is mentally playing the part of Peter Wilkins or Robinson Crusoe; on his way to work he is deep in a stirring smuggling or piratical voyage; and at work it is his body only that toils in the merest mechanical fashion, for his spirit is involved in some wild and wonderful enterprise which never comes to an end. Their reading is an intoxication more fascinating and enduring than any other, and therefore more dangerous—and the more dangerous because in appearance it is so innocent. An incurable reader cares less for appearances, less for the future, and less for any thing that is practical, than the most confirmed opium-eater or drunkard, and is at least as useless to himself and everybody else.

MRS. F. L. APPONYI is about to publish by subscription (through Bancroft & Co. of San Francisco) "The private libraries of California," describing about 70 collections, numbering from 800 to 2000 v. each. She will make a v. of about 300 p. O., costing \$3.50.

A new edition is promised by Messrs. Sotheman, of London, of a popular little work on Free libraries and news-rooms by J. D. Mullins, the previous two editions having been for some time out of print. The new edition is to contain additional chapters and notes, viz.: a list of free libraries in England now, as compared with 1869; a chapter on free libraries for London; a note on free libraries for small towns and villages; a list of books suitable in character and cost for the smaller free libraries; and a reprint of all the Acts of Parliament on free libraries in England, Scotland, etc.

B. Catalogs of libraries.

ATHENÆUM LIBRARY, London. Considerations on the library catalogue of the Athenæum; by H. R. Tedder, Librarian. [London, June, 1878.] 3 p. f.

The Librarian advises that an author-catalog of the books alone, omitting pamphlets, maps, prints, etc., be printed, with a classified index or subject-catalog; for the latter he prefers "a very short dictionary catalogue."

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, Camb., Eng. The illuminated mss. in the library; catal. with descr. and an introd. by W. G. Searle. Camb. Univ. Press, 1878.

"The Fitzwilliam collection of mss. consists chiefly of the service books called 'Hours,' the majority French. . . . It is by no means an easy matter to compile a good catalogue. And here the difficulty is indefinitely increased by the conflicting claims of liturgical and artistic arrangement. Mr. Searle has, on the whole, very properly adhered to the latter."—*J. W. Bradley in Acad.*, Aug. 10.

LA ROCHELLE. BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA VILLE. Catalogue; par L. Delayant, bibliothécaire. La Rochelle, imp. Siret, 1878. 39 + 798 p. 8°.

SAXONY. Königl. Sächs. Generalstab. Katalog der Bibliothek u. Karten-Sammlung. Dresden, Höckner in Comm., 1878. 20 + 284 p. 8°. 4 M.

Les catalogues des bibliothèques des villes de province.—*Polybiblion*, août. $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

A list of the provincial libraries that have published catalogs.

Sylvius B. v. Hohenhausen's *Bücher-Katalog*; v.

Dr. F. Leitschuh. —*Neuer Anz.*, July, Aug.

3 + 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

A catalog written in 1800 of a collection of 977 v.

THE Library Company of Philadelphia, following the lead of the Boston Athenæum, is annotating its list of additions. (See No. 6 of *The Librarian*.)

Mr. George Bullen, of the British Museum, is compiling an elaborate bibliography of the literature pertaining to "Uncle Tom's Cabin," for use by Houghton, Osgood & Co. in a new edition of Mrs. Stowe's novel. Mr. Winsor, when at the Boston Public Library, procured a transcript from the British Museum Catalogue of all their entries on this topic, and the Boston library has since received many of them not before on its shelves, the collection of translations being formed for philological purposes.

"THE Society of Telegraph Engineers will shortly issue a catalogue compiled by Sir Francis Ronalds. It will contain more than 1200 entries, including every important work, and almost every paper, on electricity and magnetism up to the compiler's death, in 1873. Its compilation was the labor of a great part of the life of Sir Francis Ronalds, and the library which he acquired during these years is now the property of the Society. For the use of librarians a special edition, printed on one side of the paper only, is proposed."—*Athenæum*.

C. Bibliography.

CLARKE (ROBERT) & CO. *Bibliotheca medica*; catal. of Amer. and Brit. books, periodicals, transactions, etc., rel. to medicine, etc., classified, with an index by authors. Cin., 1878. 4 + [1] + 244 p. D.

It is out of the question to notice in this Bibliography many booksellers' catalogs; but, in presence of such valuable series as are published by Clarke of Cincinnati, and Steiger of New York, and so useful a manual as that of Thomson mentioned below, we must make an exception to the rule of exclusion.

DEUTSCHER ZEITSCHRIFTEN-KATALOG, 1878; Zusammenstellung v. 1280 Titeln der wichtigeren Zeitschriften . . . 2. Aufl. Lpz., Gracklauer, 1878. 36 p. 8°. n. 50 m.

FRANKLIN, Alfr. *Les sources de l'histoire de France*; notices bibliog. et analyt. des inventaires et des recueils de documents relatifs à l'histoire de France. Paris, Firmin-Didot, 1878. 17 + 685 p. 8°. 24 fr.

"He who expects to find in this book a work like Wattenbach's *Geschichtsquellen* or Potthast's *Wegweiser* is very much mistaken. It merely brings together the great collections on French history published in France and the neighboring countries. An inventory of the multifarious treatises and original documents contained in them, with a very full index, would have been a very useful help; especially if the publications of the numerous provincial so-

cities of France and Belgium, which are full of valuable material, had been added; but for the most part nothing of the sort has been done. The contents given are merely the short ones prefixed to each volume of the various collections. Works like Duchesne's *Historiæ Francorum scriptores contanei* and Mabillon's *Acta sanctorum Ord. S. Benedicti* are not given at all. In short, it is difficult to say what purpose M. Franklin intended his book to serve; and as there is no preface, perhaps he had no clear idea himself. But it will not be useless; the titles of the shorter essays in the *Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes*, and of the investigations in the collections of ordinances of the French Kings, the enumeration of the bishops' seats contained in the *Gallia Christiana* and the cities in the *Coutumier*, the short bibliographical notices prefixed to each collection, are valuable, and a well-made index renders researches easy."—W. A. in *Lit. Centralbl.*, 15 June, col. 791, abridged.

GUTIERREZ DE LA VEGA, José. *Bibliografía venatoria española*. Madrid, Tello, 1877. 95 p. 4°. (25 copies printed.)

LIAMORASMI, Luigi. *Saggio bibliografico rel. ai drammi di Felice Romani*. Milano, Ricordi, 1878. 64 p. 8°. 1.50 lire.

MOHR, L. *Schillers Lied v. d. Glocke; eine bibliog. Studie*. Strassb., Schultz, 1877. 2 + 33 p. 1.30 m.

Many additional titles are given by A. Fécamp in *Revue critique*, 29 June, p. 424-7.

PERKINS, F.; Beecher. Check list for American local history; reprinted with add. from the bulletins of the Boston Public Library. Boston, 1876. 198 p. sq. O.

A column 7.2 cm. (2½ in.) wide covers half of the page; the other half is left blank for notes. We wish his manual of philosophical bibliography, which was also begun in the B. P. L. bulletin, could be finished and separately printed.

PETTENGILL's newspaper directory for 1878. N. Y., 1878. 368 p. O. \$1.00.

PIEDAGNEL, Alexandre. *Un bouquiniste parisien, le père Lécureux; préc. d'un chapitre sur les joies du bibliophile, suivi d'une lettre sur le commerce des ouvrages incomplets au 18^e siècle et d'un éloge du livre*. Paris, Rouveyre, 1878. 8°. 500 copies.

D. Mulder Bosgoed has founded on this a notice of Lécureux in *Nieuwso. v. d. boekhandel*, 20 Aug., 1¼ col.

REBOUL, Robert. *Bibliographie des ouvrages écrits en patois du midi de la France et des travaux sur la langue romano-provençale*. Paris, Techener, 1878. 89 p. 8°. 3 fr. 50.

SVENSK bok-katalog för åren 1866-75. Stockholm, Samson & Wallin i komm. Förlagd af garantiföreningen för utgifvande af Sv. Bok-Katalog, 1878. 4 l. + 331 p. 4°.

Intended as a supplement to Hjalmar Linnström's Swedish bibliog. for 1830-65; unluckily the latter stopped in 1873 at the letter E, and there seems to be some doubt whether it is to be completed. The present catalog consists

of an alphabetical list of authors with a classified index (24 classes).

THOMSON, P. G. *Book-buyer's guide; classified and priced*. Cin., P. G. Thompson, 1879 [1878]. 6 + 162 p. D.

Manuals of this kind must always be useful if reasonably well done. This one contains about 7000 well-selected titles. Of course readers may miss here and there some of their favorite works; but the worst omission is that dates of publication are never given. The titles are single-line, and there are no notes.

VUY, Jules. *Imprimeurs et libraires de Savoie; notices bibliog.* Onnecy, 1878. 30 p. 8°.

Books relating to Cyprus.—*Bookseller*, Aug. 6. 2½ col.

Favorite books; [signed] Jas. L. Onderdonk.—*Literary world*, Aug. ½ col.

8 heads with 5 titles under each. Compare Mr. Perkins's best standard novels (*Journal*, 1. 166-7, 291).

Livres imaginaires et souvenirs de bibliographie satirique; par R. Kerviler.—*Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 6.

Neuester Nachtrag zur Kaspar-Hauser-Literatur; v. J. Petzholdt.—*Neuer Anz.*, Aug. 2 p.

The Paris book-hunter.—*Saturday rev.*, Aug. 31. 2½ col.

"Le père Lécureux is dead, and his vast collection of odd volumes has gone to the paper-makers;" which serves as a text for some agreeable talk on the *bouquins* and *bouquiniers*. See back, Piedagnel.

THE Folk-lore Society have issued a circular inviting aid in the compilation of the proposed Bibliography of works relating to English folk-lore, recording (a) Special works on the subject; (b) Articles in magazines or in Transactions of societies. Forms have been prepared, which may be obtained of the Hon. Secretary. The Council ask to be supplied with specified particulars of every book or article known to members or their friends which is at all likely to be of use, reserving to the Council the right of determining whether doubtful items should be inserted in the Bibliography. Each entry must be a copy *verbatim et literatim* of the title of the book or article; and for rare works it would be a great advantage to have a memorandum of where such works are now to be found. Entries relating to different authors to be made on separate forms.

D. Indexes.

WHEATLEY, H. B. *What is an index? a few notes on indexes and indexers*. London, 1878. 96 + 4 p. O. (Index Soc., 1.)

First a "Historical account," full of antiquarian learning pleasantly told on the meaning of the word index and its struggle for existence against its rivals "table," "register," "calendar," "summary," "syllabus," specimens of various indexes, serious and comic, noted indexers—Macaulay, for instance—advocates of indexes, the revived interest in indexes, and a sketch of the history of the Index Society, in which we learn that so long ago as 1854 a society was projected "for the formation of a General Literary Index," and that the matter was brought again before the public in 1870, 1874, 1875, and 1877.

The next section of the pamphlet treats of the "Practice

of index-making" in three sections—compilation, arrangement, printing. Of this we shall give an account in our next number.

In speaking of Compilation, Mr. Wheatley says that "it is in selecting the best catchword that the good indexer will show his superiority over the commonplace worker." Such entries as

On the iodide of barium,
The late Professor Boole,

are not to be endured.

"Some indexers seem to be of opinion that proper names are the most important items in an index, and while carefully including all these they omit facts and opinions of much greater importance. As a rule, it is objectionable when the consulter finds no additional information in the book to what is already given in the index. . . . The indexer must specify the cause of reference, especially in the case of proper names. Few things are more annoying than to find a block-list of references after a name, so that the consulter has to search through many pages before he can find what he seeks." . . . One may "set out the entries in which some fact or opinion is mentioned, and gather the remainder under the heading of 'Alluded to.'" . . . In "many of the best indexes information is added which may not be in the book itself, such as the date of birth and death of the persons mentioned, in order to distinguish those bearing the same proper names. . . . The indexer needs knowledge so as to be able to correct his author when necessary. . . . There are few mistakes easier fallen into by cataloguers and indexers than that of rolling two men into one, and few blunders are less easily forgiven by the objects of the confusion." Mr. Wheatley gives some very amusing instances of this and of other mistakes in names. "Great judgment is required in the use of cross-references, as the consulters are naturally irritated by being referred backwards and forwards, particularly in a large index. At the same time, if judiciously inserted, such references are a great help. When the entries are short and few, it is better to repeat them than to refer from one to the other. It is always well to refer to cognate headings."

Under Arrangement Mr. Wheatley prefers an alphabetical to a classed index, urges that there should not be separate indexes to each volume of a work, and gives reasons for the rules adopted by the Index Society for the entry of proper names. (See *JOURNAL*, v. 3, p. 228.) The whole discussion is garnished with anecdotes.

Under Printing the necessity of attention to the typographical features of an index, and the evil of the use of dashes for repetition when the headings are not identical, are insisted upon.

The Society's rules for indexing are given next, and then a "Preliminary list of English indexes published in separate volumes," a valuable list of 158 indexes, which, singularly enough, is classified. Mr. Wheatley requests his readers to send him "notice of Foreign indexes as well as of English ones not mentioned here, so that materials for a full catalogue to be prepared hereafter may be gathered together." Some English indexes not mentioned by him are: Concordance to "The Christian Year," Oxf. and L., 1871; Concordance to the works of Tennyson, London, *Strahan*, 1870 (Mr. Wheatley has another concordance to Tennyson); Mrs. Furness's Concordance to Shakespeare's poems, Phila., 1874; Malcom's Theological index, 2d ed., Boston, 18—(Mr. Wheatley has the 1st ed.); Prendergast's Concordance to the Iliad, London, 1875; Chronol. table of and index to the statutes to the end of the session of 1869, London, 1870; City of Boston [Mass.] Index to the city documents, 1834 to 1874. [Boston.] n.d. 39 p. O.

PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAMES L. WHITNEY.

This department of the JOURNAL will contain the latest discoveries in regard to the authors of anonymous and pseudonymous books. Contributions are invited from all interested in making this list as complete and valuable as possible.

PSEUDONYMS.

Charles C..., author of "Voyage dans un grenier" (Paris, 1878) is Charles Cousin.—*Polybiblion*.

D. Gabriel de Cárdenas y Cano.—Andrés González de Barcia, in the "Ensayo cronológico para la historia general de la Florida" (Madrid, 1723), conceals his name under the above anagram. He is called in many bibliographies the editor of the edition of Torquemada's "Monarchia Indiana," which was published at Madrid in 1723. From the address of the printer it appears that the original of the first edition was found in the library of González de Barcia, who intrusted it to the printer for the preparation of a new edition. It seems to be doubtful whether he had any further connection with this work.

Claire de Chandeneux.—Emma Bailly, née Berenger, has published (Paris, 1878) a story entitled "Une fille laide."

Ignotus.—Étienne Pall.—Félix Platel has collected his biographical sketches of prominent persons of the day, mostly of Frenchmen, into a volume entitled "Portraits d'Ignotus" (Paris, 1878). These notices first appeared in the *Figaro* over the pseudonym "Ignotus." The same author has used the pseudonym "Étienne Pall."

Lageniensis.—"Irish folk-lore: traditions and superstitions of the country, with humorous tales" (Glasgow, 1871).—The Rev. John O'Hanlon, M.R.I.A., author of "Lives of the Irish Saints."—*C. W. S.*

Jean Lander.—Mme. Ernest Hello has published a new edition of "Nouvelles et récits villageois," editions of which appeared in 1861 and 1866.

Philothée O'Neddy.—The "Poésies posthumes" of Auguste Marie Dondey, who is called Théophile Dondey, have been recently published at Paris.

M. A. T.—The author of "Six sunny months" is Miss Mary Agnes Tincker.—*E. C. A.*

ANONYMOUS WORKS.

Assunta Howard.—*Stray leaves from a passing life*. The former story is attributed to Miss Edith A. Salter, the latter to John MacCarthy. Both first appeared in *The Catholic World*, and were published afterwards (N. Y., 1877, 1878) with other stories.

Philomorus' Notes on the Latin poems of Sir Thomas More. (2d edition, London, 1878).

—The Rev. John Howard Marsden, B.D.—C. W. S.

Secret societies of the middle ages. Library of entertaining knowledge. Thomas Keightley. (London, 1837.)—C. W. S.

See the discussion on the subject of the author of this work in *Notes and Queries* (4th series, p. 359, 435, 489, 541).

Wreck of the "Grosvenor" (London, N. Y., 1878).—W. Clarke Russell.

NOTES.

The Literary World has published a list of pseudonyms supplementary to the collection published in November, 1877.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be specially welcome. Note the worthless as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.

NOTES.

CATALOGUES IN NEWSPAPERS.—The Trustees of the "William Salt Library" of Staffordshire, England, not having any funds available to print a catalogue of its books, the *Staffordshire Advertiser* consented to publish an index-catalogue, in weekly instalments, in its reading columns—rendering, thereby, a grateful service to its subscribers, and at the same time doubtless creating an extra demand for the paper. The *Examiner* (N. Y.) adds: "Is there not a hint here for some of our local papers? A monthly list of the new books added to the village library would certainly be an attractive feature in a village paper."

LEADING OUT TYPE.—The note as to type used in the Boston P. L. Bulletins and leaded out for posting brings the following from Mr. Whitney. It may be added that it cost \$6 to use this brevier type, the size now adopted, while it would have cost \$12.25 to reset the matter in pica, a size better adapted to posting. The saving is therefore substantial.

VOL. III., No. 7.

"You notice No. 2 in July JOURNAL and suggest larger type. This number is printed with a larger type, not so large, however, as it would be if used for a posting list only. As it is published in the Bulletin I did not venture to use type that would appear like the infants' department of the *Nursery*, or occupy five or six pages of the Bulletin." J. L. W."

PRIMEVAL LIBRARIANS.—Mr. Sayce, the well-known English scholar, in his lecture before the Royal Institution, on Babylonian Literature, says: "The catalogue of the astronomical works in the library of Agané enjoins the reader to write down the number of the tablet or book he needs, and the librarian will thereupon give him the tablet required. Every tablet had its number and place, and the tablets were arranged according to subject and contents. The arrangement adopted by Sagore's librarians, one of whom has left us a signet-ring, now in the British Museum, must have been the product of generations of former experience. . . Assurbanipal's library was open to all his subjects, . . . and the mass of literature they contained, as well as their varied contents, show plainly how large must have been the literary class." There is nothing new under the sun.

LLOYD P. SMITH.

SPECIAL RESERVES.—It is the custom of the professors at Harvard to hand in at the library lists of books to which they intend to refer their classes during the term. These books are reserved from circulation, are covered, and a colored label is pasted on the backs, each professor having a distinctive color. The books are then arranged in an alcove, to which the students have free access. The label reads:

RESERVED BOOK.

This book is withdrawn from circulation by order of a professor, so that all members of his classes may be secured in an equitable use of it.

It must not be taken from the Hall during Library hours, and should be returned to its shelf when not in use.

* * * At the close of Library hours it can be taken out, when properly charged; but must be returned before 9 A.M. the next open day.

Other libraries might adopt this plan for books in which there chanced to be some special interest, so that many people desired to consult them. Such cases arise often in any library, and the first comer, who perhaps cares least of all about it, is the only one who sees the coveted book at all.

GENERAL NOTES.

UNITED STATES.

REOPENING NEW YORK LIBRARIES.—The large libraries were reopened with September, having been closed during August. The Astor, notes the *Tribune*, has been much repaired, the iron shutters having needed entire refitting. Important improvements have been made in the sanitary condition of the building. A new, strong skylight has been placed over the south hall, by which the light in the library room there has been much increased. A room has been fitted up for the use of the Superintendent. The binding, at the closing of the Library, was greatly in arrears. The serial publications have been bound up to date during the vacation, and the more important works which had imperfect bindings have been rebound. During the five weeks the Apprentices' Library has been closed a thorough examination has been made. The past year shows a circulation of 128,000; less than fifty volumes. The circulation fell far below that of the previous year, on account of the removal. This library, free to all persons learning a trade, has a few subscribers who pay nominal fees. There are not more than 200 subscribers in the 800 readers who have access to its books.

HARTFORD LIBRARY.—The library debt has been raised by subscriptions of \$25 each in case 50 names were secured. These were noticeably from the same friends who have always responded to the calls for help. Out of four new \$50 life members three are ladies. On the ground that in a subscription library like this support depends on popular favor more than in a public library maintained by tax, the policy of asking the least possible of subscribers has been adopted. They are no longer required to fill out a written blank in getting their books, and other usual formalities have been abandoned. Fiction is 17½ per cent of the stock and 67 per cent of the circulation. The change of name from Y. M. Institute was based upon most excellent reasons. "Being, therefore, not alone for the young, not alone for men, and not an institute but a library, it seemed time to call it by its right name." Placing the funds in the hands of trustees, making them permanent, is recommended as the next improvement, encouraging gifts from those who wish to be assured that what they give will be kept permanently and not be used, principal and interest, at the first pressure of hard times.

CLOVERDALE (CAL.), LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—A few earnest souls have started a library association and are determined to make it a success. They propose among other plans a new exchange of duplicates with Eastern libraries. In Dr. Smith's words: "We are so situated that we can collect, at comparatively small cost, valuable mineral specimens of the precious and other metals and minerals of many of the mines of California and Nevada. Now we desire to make arrangements with a number (say 20) of the great libraries of the Eastern States, to collect them each a very full and valuable set of specimens, all properly labelled, etc., and have each send us, in exchange, a stipulated amount of books adapted to our needs, say from \$200 to \$300 worth."

There are some libraries desirous of adding cabinets of specimens to their stores, and this seems a favorable chance. If some of the duplicates, now comparatively useless, can be exchanged for a choice cabinet it would seem well for all concerned. Perhaps some of our college libraries could utilize this suggestion. Those interested may address Dr. L. C. Smith, Cloverdale, Sonoma Co., Cal.

CORNWALL [N. Y.] LIBRARY.—A summarized comparison of receipts for three years, 1876-1877-1878, ending 1st June, shows an increase of membership receipts in the last year over the two previous ones of 37½ per cent. The secretary attributes this gain mainly to procuring a more plentiful supply of recent publications, to publishing a new catalogue and sending a copy to every family in the township, and to publishing regular notices for that time in the local papers of recent books received. This library issued an invitation circular, which was sent to the summer guests visiting this noted summer resort, to call and examine the library and reading-room, which tends to largely increase its receipts.

MOLINE (ILL.).—The P. O. building, given last year by Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Wheelock, has been handsomely fitted up, but only by borrowing \$363.60 from the book fund. They want now a catalogue, and appeal to the liberality of the council. The ladies gave a library supper, which was a great success socially, and netted \$124.60. Are there not as strong appetites and as willing ladies in other towns where the library needs money sadly?

ABBOTT LIBRARY (Marblehead).—In 3½ months the issues were over 16,000 v., on 2057 cards, a few to summer residents. They have

now about 4000 v., thus giving a turn over of 15, which is gratifying indeed.

A HARLEM (N. Y. City) library recently added to its funds by a steamboat excursion.

THE Seymour Library Association (Auburn, N. Y.) reopens October 1st with 6300 v., arranged on the Dewey plan with class lists like Mr. Poole's. A full card catalogue has been made, but will not be printed at present, if ever.

THE following clipping tells the story simply:
The Fletcher Free Library has an Assistant Librarian.
"It's a girl."

We welcome Miss (t. p. w.) Rogers (which means that as yet the complete title-page is wanting) to the profession.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT.—The rate-payers of Holyhead, where the maximum rate would only yield £50 a year, have very fortunately rejected an ill-considered proposal to adopt the Act. At Cheltenham a requisition, signed by over 140 rate-payers, has been sent in. At Yarrow-on-Tyne the Town Council have by 14 votes to 3 requested the Mayor to call a public meeting to decide whether the Act shall be adopted. A renewed and vigorous effort is being made to obtain a free library at Worcester. A similar effort is being made at Hull. The Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee will send in a report to the Oxford meeting of the Library Association, but have suspended active work till October.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—The important appointment of Principal Librarian and Secretary of the British Museum, vacant by the resignation of Mr. J. Winter Jones, has been conferred upon Mr. Edward A. Bond, Keeper of the Manuscripts, and Her Majesty has signed the appointment. Mr. Bond has been in the public service for upwards of forty years. It was owing to his labors and energetic supervision that the stupendous compilation of a classed catalogue of mss. was carried out successfully. Mr. Bond's palæographical accomplishments are well known to the literary world. The formation of the Palæographical Society and the publication of the Fac-similes of Ancient Charters in the British Museum superintended by him have gone far to place England at the head of the science of palæography. Mr. Jones will remain in the position until the Trustees'

first meeting of the new session after the current vacation, on the 12th of October, when Mr. Bond will be installed. Mr. E. M. Thompson, whose attainments as a palæographer are well known to the learned world, will, it is understood, succeed Mr. Bond in the Keepership of the Mss.

LIVERPOOL PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The fine new building is slowly approaching completion. The exterior is practically finished. "They are now getting in the iron beams to support the floor. The Council, August 7th, passed an estimate of £2200 for fixtures—shelving, iron gallery, staircases, etc. It was intended to utilize the basement for an aquarium, but this has been abandoned on account of the expense. The idea now is to appropriate it for a lecture-room and meeting hall. As many things are yet undecided, I have thought it better to defer description until things were more advanced and more definitely settled. We hope to be able to avail ourselves of the electric light, and so I trust do away with much of that sad havoc which gas works among the bindings of books. Tonks' system of movable shelves will be introduced, and lifts here and there, for passing the books to and fro, in connection with the gallery.
P. C."

SUNDAY OPENING AT MANCHESTER.—Manchester has just followed the example set by Birmingham, and has opened her free libraries on Sundays. They were thrown open September 8th, in accordance with the resolution of the Town Council. Mr. Axon is the local Hon. Sec. of the Sunday Society for securing such openings, and there has been a good deal of controversy, ending as might be expected and hoped.

BEQUEST OF A LIBRARY TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES.—A Mr. George Mitchell, late of 22 Bolton Street, Piccadilly, whose personal estate was sworn under £40,000, has bequeathed his library of books (with one exception) "to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, if she will be graciously pleased to accept the same, for the benefit of herself or of any of her children; and, if she does not see fit to accept the same, then to the South Kensington Museum." The Princess of Wales having accepted the books, they will be added to the existing library at Marlborough House, which is neither so extensive nor so well selected as that of Mr. Mitchell. The library comprehends about 1500 volumes, and would be worth about £2000.

The catalogue, privately printed in 1869, was compiled by the late Mr. B. M. Pickering.

THE Bradford Free Library Committee have decided to form a museum and art gallery in the large room at the top of the building they rent in Darley Street. A conference was to be held to devise means.

THE Birmingham Committee are just spending £16,000 in extending their free libraries and museums, making between thirty and forty thousand pounds expended on buildings and fittings of libraries, etc., in that town.

FRANCE.

PARIS.—The Minister of Public Instruction having decided that the treasures of the different libraries must not be removed from them to figure at the International Exhibition, the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève has taken the lead in arranging an exhibition within its building which shows, says the *Polybiblion*, that this library, though used almost entirely by collegians and students, is rich in curiosities and rarities. We hope, says the London *Athenæum*, all the libraries will follow a good example, and will not be deterred by the fear manifested by Petit Radet, when manager of the National Library. A very clever bibliophile, visiting the great French collection, asked him for an exceedingly scarce book. "We have it," answered Petit Radet, "but for goodness sake don't say you have seen it, because it would be sure to be stolen."

THE forthcoming number of *Le Cabinet Historique* will contain an unedited letter on the project of General Hanriot to burn the National Library at Paris, by M. Henry Martin, of the Arsenal Library in Paris.

GERMANY.

A RECENT number of the *Correspondenzblatt der deutschen Archive* gives a detailed list of the staffs employed in the Archives in the German Empire, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and the Netherlands.

ACCORDING to the *Philologus*, published at Göttingen, the library of Count Dzialinski is preserved in the town of Kurnik (Posen). It forms an important collection of works relating to Poland and its history, as well as a collection of Greek and Latin classics printed in Poland.

Among the mss. is one of Juvenal, transcribed in Florence, 1441, affording some variants on the printed editions.

Several German libraries are about to undergo considerable alteration and extension. The rebuilding of the valuable and admirably-arranged library of the Halle University has already been begun; the plans for Göttingen are drawn, if not finally determined on. In Berlin, where the Royal Library has long been totally inadequate to the needs of students, the difficulty is to be temporarily met by transferring the musical collection and the collection of maps and charts to another building; but here also the form the alterations are to take has been decided upon.—*Academy*.

AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE.—"The apathetic Australian is requested to vote for a free library in the city. Mr. Yates, the celebrated librarian of Leeds, might, I believe, be induced to come out and organize a good free library. The affair on North Terrace is not free. It is besides cramped and uncomfortable, and although we should have little difficulty in turning the Institute into a good public library, yet a free circulating library for Adelaide, and a public reference library for South Australia, answer two very different purposes, and must not be confounded with one another. A cheap circulating library for our young folks I think would pay. Who will start it?"—*Australian Star* (Adelaide).

We could send Adelaide a good many librarians who would do worse than Mr. Yates. He is just organizing his nineteenth branch and ought to know something about public libraries by this time. Adelaide will have no difficulty in getting a good librarian if she votes as suggested.

A BRONZE statue of Sir Redmond Barry, K.C.M.G., is to be erected opposite to the Public Library in Melbourne, of which he has been the chief supporter. It is to be raised by public subscription, and is to cost £2000. This is in recognition of his exertions in the promotion of literature and of the fine arts, ever since his arrival in the colony in 1839. During his recent visit to England, after representing Victoria at the Philadelphia Exhibition, he was created a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Those who attended the London Conference remember him as one of its most prominent members

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